

## THROUGH THE REAR DOOR

## RUSSELL'S APPOINTEES GET AD-MISSION TO OFFICE.

They Pick the Lock of the Door and Steal in the Dead Hours of the Night—The Lock Picked on Russell's Advice—The Sheriff Declined to Execute the Writ—Probability of Two Railway Commissioners—Populists Determined to Crush Butler.

Messenger Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., December 24. It was said early last evening by persons who know Governor Russell's ideas and plans, that his appointees as railway commissioners, L. C. Caldwell and John H. Pearson, intended to get into the office in some way last night. And so they did. It was nearly midnight when a lock-picker admitted them through the rear door. They then had the front door locks removed and made a night of it, lying on lounges or reading.

This morning at 10 o'clock your correspondent went to the office and found them both there. Pearson said: "We waited in the portico here two hours, from 6 to 8 o'clock last evening for the sheriff to execute the writ issued by the supreme court (signed by Justice Clark) and put us in possession. The sheriff was there at 6, but did not return and we went out to tea. Then we came back here. We sent for a locksmith and got in at 11:40 o'clock. I declare we are not in contempt of Chief Justice Fairchild or of the supreme court of the United States, which granted the writ of error last evening. We were not served with that writ, nor did we hear of it from our attorneys, but indirectly. We disclaim any contempt in what we have done. It was the sheriff's duty to have opened the door for us at 6 o'clock."

Caldwell said: "I nearly froze to death those two hours I was waiting on the portico here." "I was walking and waiting for the mail to come," said Pearson. "Four of the justices of the supreme court had said we were entitled to the office. Had they decided against us, Caldwell and I would have taken our departure for home at once."

It is said that the governor personally advised that the lock be picked, but told the sheriff not to force the door. The sheriff was too sharp to take any hand in the matter. He was afraid of proceedings in contempt and an amendment. The attorney for Caldwell and Pearson and the governor was in a state of mind for hours. The governor was rushing matters. He wanted to put in his men at 8 o'clock last evening.

In view of the fact that D. H. Abbott, of the railway commission, has said publicly he did not acknowledge Governor Russell's appointees, but recognized W. W. Wilson and Otto Wilson until the United States supreme court passed on the matter, it is interesting to know what he now proposes to do, with Pearson and Caldwell in possession of the office. Will the two Wilsons and Abbott meet as usual and thus present the spectacle of two commissions? The two morning papers take opposite sides on the question. One attacks the governor and the majority of the supreme court, the other sustains them. Chief Justice Fairchild's hit at the governor in his dissenting opinion were certainly centre shots and naturally had made the governor madder and more obstinate than ever, if such a thing be possible.

The agricultural department was yesterday closed until next Monday. Justice Robinson's assignment to hold Guilford court beginning January 20th. Governor Russell was yesterday asked for a list of the pardons granted during his administration, for use in a special article. His reply was that he would give it to "friendly papers." By this he must surely mean Senator Butler's paper. The Caucasian, the only paper in all North Carolina friendly to him.

The town of Smithfield now has a bank with a strong backing. There was quite an exodus of state officials today. Only the chief justice, secretary of state, auditor and treasurer remain, and will spend the holidays in Raleigh.

E. S. Walton, late of the Piedmont bank, of Morganton, writes State Treasurer Worth that he never said that Worth had lent the bank \$5,000, because it was untrue and because the bank had not asked him for a loan.

Major James W. Wilson, chairman of the railway commission, arrived here from Morganton at 9 o'clock last night, and was then informed that violent possession of his office had been taken a couple of hours before. Otto Wilson at last accounts was at Washington. D. C. Dr. Abbott is at his home in one of the eastern counties.

Clerk Riddick, of the United States circuit court, who signed the writ of error to the United States supreme court, was asked this morning what steps he now proposed to take. He said he had done all he was going to do, that what Pearson and Caldwell had done was not in contempt of the United States circuit court. He says he does not think they had any right to enter the commission office.

A large drove of bronze turkeys came from Chatham county today. Several weighed forty pounds apiece, and for them \$5 each was asked. There is to be another hearing of the North Carolina railway lease question before Special Master Kerr Craig at Salisbury January 7th. The anti-Russell side will then have its innings.

It is now known that the populists are arranging a concerted plan to literally crush Senator Butler and end his power. Moses Cone will go into fruit raising on a large scale in Watauga county. He is planting 2,000 trees.

It is learned that there will be a considerable increase after the holidays in the number of students at the Agricultural and Mechanical college.

The secretary of state recently sent W. P. Batchelor, for years a clerk in that office, to Baltimore to examine the books and assets of the guarantee companies. One of these desired an examination. The information was specially desired by the secretary of state in order that he might certify as to the status of this class of companies. The law now gives him the power to make biennial examinations.

The populists have not abandoned the idea of ousting W. C. McRae, road supervisor here, in order to get in one of their people.

## Circumstances

Flush, and the crowd drinks with you; Broke, and you drink alone. Provided, of course, you can borrow a dime. Or a barkeeper you can "bone." Win, and your friends all join you; Lose, and you are known nowhere; A wallet full has a greater pull Than a pocketbook filled with air.

Buy, and all men will love you; Pawn, and they turn and flee; They're after your money as a fly is for honey.

But your poverty they can't see; Ride, and you pay the car fare; Walk, and they all roll by; They are quick to hear if you sing out "Beer!"

But never do they call out "Zwei!" Lunch and you settle the ticket; If you're hungry they never invite; Earn and spend, and keep up your end; But few men will treat you right.

There is room in the gorgeous barroom For liquor and cracked ice; But one by one we must all sneak home, If we haven't got the price.

—Chicago Herald.

Durham Sun: Jodie Seagraves was fooling with an old pistol in Chapel Hill street. While trying to take a cartridge out of the cylinder it went off and the ball lodged in one of his fingers.

## REBEL THESPIANS.

Interesting Incidents in the Experience of Confederate Prisoners of War—They had Theatricals at Johnson's Island—Captain James I. Metts one of the Players

There are many incidents of the late civil war coming to the front as the years put us further from the conflict. We have heard how cheerfully and heroically the confederate soldiers endured the hardships of camp life and how full of fun and humor they were in the face of all the dangers and privations that beset them every day. Their patriotism and fighting qualities are a matter of history, recorded in the battles that made the great American war the most noted in the annals of the world. How many, however, know that amid all the dangers of battle and the restraints of prison life that the boys in grey gave some of their time and attention to histrionic matters and played their parts upon the stage?

Our esteemed citizen, Captain James I. Metts, Third North Carolina Infantry, was a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island, in 1863-64, and he tells us that even in the confinement of prison the boys kept up their spirits and had frequent theatrical entertainments. As mementoes of these occasions, Captain Metts is the possessor of several bills advertising the plays and giving the casts.

## ISLAND MINSTRELS.

One of the bills proclaims the fact that the "Island Minstrels" would on Saturday afternoon, October 10, 1863, give an entertainment. Under the head line of the bill the names of the following management appears:

"Manager and proprietor, Mr. Chas. L. Stout."

"Acting Stage Manager, Mr. E. H. Walter."

"Musical Director, Mr. W. H. Harris."

"Treasurer, Mr. J. C. Ward."

The following unique announcement is made:

"The manager having had forty years experience in his peculiar line of business, is proud to announce to the friends of the institution and citizens of Johnson's Island, that after unparalleled exertions he has succeeded in procuring the first order of talent from Fort Delaware, Alton, Camp Chase and the penitentiaries of Columbus, Ohio, and Allegheny City, Pa., he is now prepared to present to the public the greatest array of talent ever before witnessed in the United States. He has succeeded in procuring, for one night only, the services of the celebrated Irish comedian, Billy Doyle, and also the following stars: Mr. D. L. Dunham, the inimitable bones; Mr. T. F. Mitchell, the renowned gaiterist; Mr. J. C. Ward, the exquisite stamper; Mr. Wm. H. Harris, the modern Paganini; Mr. Ole Bull Livingstone, Mr. Paul Julien Hannahan, Mr. Joe Sweetner Cronin, Mr. Triangular Decker, Mr. Charles L. Stout. Feeling that he would not be able to do justice to his own merits, he respectfully invites the public to come and see what he can do with the tambourine."

Then follows an interesting programme of songs, jig dancing and music by the members of the company and the band. (As a third part it is announced that "the astonishing after-piece entitled 'The Secret, or the Hole in the Fence,' would be presented.")

## REBEL THESPIANS.

Another bill announces that the "Rebel Thespian" would appear Thursday evening, January 7, 1864, in "an original drama by Lieutenant A. J. Peeler, of Florida, written expressly for the Thespian." The bill says: "The manager feels an honest pride in presenting this performance to his fellow prisoners, a splendid melo-drama in five acts by a member of the association. The play reflects much credit on the young author, exhibiting great beauty and perfection in delineation of character. It presents to the soldier many familiar scenes of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of July at Gettysburg, Penn."

The performance concluded with the farce "Box and Cox." The orchestra included the talent in the "Island Minstrels," and among the managers appears the name of Captain Jno. R. Fellows, as prompter, who years after the war became the famous district attorney of New York. In the farce Captain Fellows took the role of "Box." Our townsman, Captain James I. Metts, then Lieutenant, appeared in the drama cast as "Mrs. Louisa White."

## THE REBELLIONARIANS.

Another of the bills announces the first appearance of the "Rebellionarians," Thursday April 14, 1864. They gave a minstrel performance and concluded with "The Intelligent Contraband," an original farce written expressly for the "Rebellionarians." Lieutenant Metts was down in the cast.

The price of admission to these performances was 25 cents and reserved seats 50 cents. In one of the bills it is announced "Children and Niggers Half Price."

The proceeds of the shows were for the benefit of confederate sick in the prison hospital.

Asheville Gazette: On the re-convening of the circuit court yesterday afternoon it took up the charge against Andy Hunter for an assault with a goose-neck hoe handle on the Gaddy family in French Broad township. The defendant's counsel insisted that Hunter was justifiable in the assault because of the violent and dangerous character of Mrs. Gaddy, whom he represented to the court as a woman of powerful muscle and the will to use it. He stated that he would fetch in sundry able bodied and muscular men whom she had disposed of in Pittsman street. Judge Ewart gave him the request and ordered him to bring in his men and show the court the condition of their solar plexes after their encounter with Mrs. Gaddy.

## FORT FISHER.

Testimony of Two Participants in That Fierce Battle as to the Gallant Defense Made by the Officers and Men—None of Them Drunk or Drunken

Warren, N. C., December 28.

Editors Messenger:

Dear Sir—I have read the articles which have appeared in your paper within the last few days in regard to the fall of Fort Fisher January 15, 1865, and being a survivor of that memorable and bloody occasion, I wish to add my testimony to that of Colonel William Lamb and others that the garrison of Fort Fisher was not drunk, and that it did not allow the enemy to march in and take possession without firing a shot. If General Bragg ever said this, I must say in justice to my dead and living comrades and for the truth of history, that his statement was false and without any foundation whatever. I belonged to Stevenson's Company A, Thirty-sixth North Carolina troops, heavy artillery. I served as drummer boy in addition to my other duties, and on January 13, 1865, at about 2 o'clock a. m. I began to beat the long roll, going through the entire garrison summoning the men to duty in the deadly conflict that began about sunrise of the said day. I was in the garrison from the beginning to the end of the battle and was an eye witness, and I know of my own knowledge that the guns of the fort were manned and returned the fire of the federal fleet slowly, but steadily and regularly, according to Colonel Lamb's orders. He has fully explained his order to fire slowly—he was reserving his ammunition, not knowing how long the fight would last, yet hoping that General Bragg would attack the enemy in the rear, as General W. H. C. Whiting has repeatedly telegraphed him to do. I had been in three engagements prior to this one and I had never seen men fight more desperately and bravely than the garrison of Fort Fisher. The repulse of Porter's sailors and marines on the sea face of the fort and the struggle with Terry's army on the river beach when he first assaulted the fort were both desperate and bloody. We had about 1,500 fighting men in the garrison at the beginning of the fight. It has always been admitted that the enemy's fleet mounted 600 guns and Terry's land forces numbered 10,000 men. Now, this being true, it was utterly impossible for Fort Fisher, defended by 1,500 men, to withstand the combined attack of the federal naval and land forces for six or eight hours. The garrison had been drunk. Such an assertion hardly needs any denial, but the survivors of the fight are interested and want the truth established, and I am glad to say that they are as earnest in their desire to clear away this false charge as they were to defend the garrison of Fort Fisher. I know that the men fought long and well, and if General Bragg had not played such bad generalship by failing to attack Terry's army before they were entrenched across the peninsula or just before the morning light, the result might have been altogether different.

I saw Colonel Lamb three times on Sunday, January 15, 1865, while the federal fleet was playing 600 guns on the fort and one time while the fight was going on inside the fort with Terry's army, and the colonel was sober, "collected and in his right mind," giving orders and directing the movements of his troops against the enemy. I saw General W. H. C. Whiting and other officers of the fort and they were all sober, collected and collected and remained in the fort until they were wounded seriously and had to be carried to the rear.

I was at Battery Buchanan when the fort was surrendered and I know we were fired from the mound and other batteries on the right or sea face of the fort in good order. After fighting the enemy all the way down to the mound, the last battery on the right, except Battery Buchanan and after we were all captured and made prisoners and were being marched out by the enemy, some of them passed us hearing General Whiting on a litter, and although he was seriously wounded, he then and there testified to the good conduct and bravery of his men by saying: "Good boys, they have got us, but you did your duty."

General Whiting and Colonel Lamb were well liked by all the men and the troops showed their appreciation for them by following them to the muzzle of the enemy's guns where about 500 met death.

I was the first one of the survivors to write an account of the fight which was printed in The Review, Wilmington, N. C., and afterwards copied by a great many of the state papers. There were more than a dozen years ago, and in that account I threw the mantle of charity over General Bragg's faults, hoping that posterity would check his virtues. I did not know of the letter that has brought on the discussion of the last few weeks, when I wrote the article referred to above, and I regret very much that it has found its way into the papers, but now I favor the whole truth being told as to General Bragg's conduct and generalship around Fort Fisher.

Thanking you for publishing this letter that justice may be done, I am, Yours truly, B. L. BLACKMORE.

New York, December 22. Editors Messenger:

I have read with much interest the articles published by you in regard to the fall of Fort Fisher and General Bragg's unjust and unwarranted letter, and as I participated in that fight and was captured and sent a prisoner to Johnson's Island, New York, I would like to say a word, though I can add nothing perhaps to what has already been so well said.

My battery was the second or third, I forget which, from the fort south, from which I could plainly see the fight, but a heavy curtain behind the fort prevented my seeing how the yankees got into it. At any rate I saw Major Reiley with a small number of men fighting south of the curtain near the river, and we then opened fire upon the enemy. This was early in the afternoon and the yankees were then on the second traverse. I think the fight being confined between the fort and the curtain, General Whiting and Colonel Lamb both came to my battery and what I wish to emphasize is, that neither was under the influence of liquor, nor was there the least evidence that they had been indulging.

It took the yankees from 3 o'clock in the afternoon until 9 o'clock at night to drive the garrison out of the fort and the fighting was continuous all the time, and when finally we were driven out, we deliberately walked down from the fort to Battery Buchanan, unmolested by the enemy, though there was a brilliant moon shining at the time. No provision had been made for a stand at Battery Buchanan, and finding the guns spiked and the battery deserted, nothing was left for us but to surrender, which we did.

General Bragg greatly slandered the officers in his letter by charging them with being drunk. They were not at all so, nor were the men, they had perhaps been kept too long at one post, though when the crisis came they fought gallantly and acquitted themselves like men.

ANORUM B. BURR.

A COLORED BAPTIST COLLEGE IN KANSAS.

The executive committee of the Baptist churches of Kansas has decided to commence the erection of a building for the Kansas Theological, Industrial, and Agricultural college in Atchinson early in the spring. A majority of the 14,000 colored Baptists in Kansas will contribute \$5 each towards the college, and the American Baptist Home Missionary Society, an organization of the white Baptists, agreed to materially aid the enterprise.—Topeka Capital.



A BASQUE-WAIST OF RUSSIAN-GREEN AND CORAL-PINK TAFETA ROYAL PINK.

The dinner or theatre waist of the fashionable young lady is a dream of beauty and the diminution of sleeves does not materially lessen their breadth or elaboration, for there are so many charming concessions in the way of frill caps, epaulets and puffs and such a variety of arrangements in yokes and sleeves that unusually elegant effects are possible. The theatre waist shown

is made of two shades of silk and the ribbon stock and belt are necessary additions.

The mode has original features that will be best displayed in a combination, a yoke of contrasting color is suggested and a bright ribbon stock and belt are essential. The mousquetaire sleeves are extremely effective in silk or transparent goods and the frill caps that fluff prettily over them at the top are dressy and generally becoming. The closing of the waist is made in Russian style.

DRESS OF FRENCH CHALLIS, WITH SQUARE YOKE OVERLAIN WITH LACE, AND TAB DECORATION.

The simplicity of the school dress and, indeed, of most of the dresses for growing girls is commendable, nevertheless there is a bewitching gaiety about them due to the lovely colorings so appropriate for the young, whether the material be silk, cashmere or the novelty weaves that present many colors harmoniously intermingled. In the sketch is shown a simple but most attractive dress made of figured challis,

or silk and appropriately trimmed, but a basque contrasting with rather than



A BRAID-TRIMMED CLOTH COSTUME FOR THE PROMENADE.

There are some of the new costumes that look admirably well in a combination and there are others that are stylish made of one material throughout, with some applied band trimming like braid or the very open-work passement-

with square yoke of cherry silk overlaid with lace, and a decoration of narrow velvet ribbon on the sleeves, collar and decorative tabs that outline the yoke and fall over the short puffs at the top of the sleeves, which fit the arm closely to well above the elbow. The straight, full skirt is merely hemmed at the bottom and gathered at the top, but velvet ribbon may be disposed in horizontal rows above the hem.

A STYLISH TOILETTE FOR THE PROMENADE, CONSISTING OF A MARQUESE BASQUE, AND A CIRCULAR SKIRT WITH FAN BACK.

Every day at this season there are new and tempting dress patterns put forth, the gay plaids being conspicuous and handsome in their blending of vivid with sombre colors. The skirt of the toilette shown in the sketch is of plaid serge, green and red being the dominant tones in the fabric; while a new shade of water-cream green is pictured in the basque, which has a front of yellow silk trimmed with narrow velvet ribbon; the revers are overlaid with lace and bordered with lace edging. At the back the basque is closely adjusted, but the fronts open with becoming effect over full vest fronts of silk prettily trimmed. This toilette may be made up in velvet, cloth



terle. The costume illustrated has a graceful five-gored skirt with the fashionable fan back and a basque that is lengthened by a peplum that ripples

at the back only, its ends meeting in a line with the closing of the basque, which is diagonal from the right shoulder to the left side. A jabot is joined to the right front, and it is lined with shot silk and braid trimmed, the effect is dressy and becoming. Gathers collect the fulness at the top of the stylish two-steam sleeves and a standing collar and velvet belt finish the waist. Fancy frog ornaments and two widths of braid on both skirt and waist give an appropriate decorative finish.

The Alpine hat matches in color the costume and is trimmed with velvet and a bird.

EMPIRE COAT OF CEDAR-BROWN BROADCLOTH, WITH LAFAYETTE COLLAR.

For many forms there is nothing so suitable as the Empire style of coat with its flowing lines and graceful length and disposal of fulness. Trimming is used to some extent on these garments, but the severely plain coat is popular with many women. A fashionable shade of brown was chosen for the coat illustrated. The back is laid in a rolling box-pleat at each side of the center, the plaits widening toward the lower edge; a similar plait is form-



ed at each side of the closing and thus the flowing effect peculiar to the Empire modes is attained. A slight decoration of braid is apparent on the Lafayette collar, which is high and flaring. Leg-o'-mutton sleeves box-plaited at the top complete the mode. Every fashionable hue in cloth, cheviot and fancy coating is available for the garment and so is velvet and heavily corded silk.

A felt hat with brim turned upward at the back and covered with a trimming of feathers and silk is worn.

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DUTY OF THE CHURCHES TOWARD STATE UNIVERSITIES.

The churches, says Professor Kelsey, in the December Atlantic, have a duty toward the state universities. This duty grows out of the duty of the churches as guardians of the highest interests of society. Do not Christian people pay taxes? Even if it were granted that the state universities have an irreligious atmosphere, to whom should we look to change it? Should the churches approach the state universities in a spirit of criticism, or with a deep feeling of responsibility and a willingness to co-operate in the promotion of the supreme interests of youths? At the very least, it is reasonable to ask that the religious bodies see to it that men of marked spiritual and intellectual power be placed in the pulpits of university towns. But in more than one university town churches fail to keep their footing, not because of an unfavorable environment, but because the work is left in charge of men who are not equal to it.

The most vital interests of the churches are at stake in the state universities. These are strategic points. The greater part of their students come from the religious denominations. Is it expedient for a church to give attention of the spiritual welfare of those only who are affiliated with it in the denominational schools, and to neglect perhaps a far greater number of members and adherents in a state university? If students come from the churches to the great universities, and are there weaned from the things of the spirit, and through an unsymmetrical development permit the training of intellect to choke out the spiritual life, who shall justify the churches for their indifference and neglect.—Professor F. W. Kelsey in the December Atlantic.

TOUGH ON THE NEW YORK HERALD.

"Here is a lighthouse that seldom casts anchor," said The New York Herald in presenting a picture of the new Diamond Shoal lighthouse that has now been on her station at anchor continuously in the same position for some months past. The article descriptive of the ship stated that she would anchor in light weather only, as the holding ground was not good enough to hold the ship in a blow and she would consequently cast off her moorings and heave to under her own steam power whenever a gale arose. What a funny old lighthouse that would be to mark a position! The mooring equipment of this ship as devised by the lighthouse board and fully described in The Marine Journal when she was placed in position has never failed to hold her and the lighthouse is proving a splendid success. But after such a "break" as that in The New York Herald, of all papers, we give up hope of the modern Herald men ever appreciating marine facts.—Marine Journal.

## Household Goods

The ancient Greeks believed that the Penates were the gods who attended to the welfare and prosperity of the family. They were worshipped as household gods of every home. The household god of today is Dr. King's New Discovery. For consumption, coughs, colds and for all affections of the Throat, Chest and Lungs it is invaluable. It has been tried for a quarter of a century and is guaranteed to give money returned. No household should be without this good angel. It is pleasant to take and safe and a sure remedy for old and young. Free trial bottles at R. R. Bellamy's drug store. Regular size 50c. and \$1.00.